

too are obliged to adapt their economic, training and social welfare programs." The conference final report noted that in the U.S., ACHIEVE has been one of the organizations at the forefront of defining key issues in this regard and developing strategies to address them. ACHIEVE has been measuring and reporting each state's annual progress in establishing internationally competitive standards, and business leaders involved have indicated their commitment to consider the quality of each state's standards when making business location or expansion decisions.

The "Partners in a Global Economy Working Group" of the conference discussed "what redesigning of curricula is required . . . (i.e. what career skills are needed), . . . portability of skill certificates, . . . and institutionalizing cross-national learning/training activities."

Most people debating STW in the U.S. are familiar with the role of Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy. He's also on the National Skill Standards Board (NSSB), and on its website under international links, one finds "Smartcards Project Forum," under which one reads: "The Tavistock Institute and the European Commission are working on a feasibility study to research the affect of using Smart Cards in competence accreditation. The study will be carried out in the USA and parts of Europe." The project involves assessing and validating students' skills, with information placed on personal skills Smartcards, which "become real passports to employment."

If without a passport one cannot enter a country, does this mean that without a skills passport one may not be able to get a job in the future?

In October 1997, the Tavistock Institute (and Manchester University) completed the final report for the European Commission, and described in a report summary were the relevancy of Goals 2000, SCANS (U.S. Department of Labor "Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills") typology with its "profound implications for the curriculum and training changes that this will require," valid skills standards and portable credentials "benchmarked to international standards such as those promulgated by the International Standards Organization (ISO)."

The report summary went on to say that "there is increasing attention being focused on developing global skill standards and accreditation agreements," and there will be "partnerships between government, industry, and representatives of worker organizations . . . (and) a high degree of integration . . . embedding skills within the broader context of economic and social activity, and specifically within the areas of secondary education, work-based learning and local and regional economic development. . . . The NSSB, Goals 2000, STW Program are all combining to act as a catalyst to promote the formation of partnerships to develop skills standards. In this regard, a system like O*Net can be seen as the 'glue' that holds everything together."

O*Net is a new occupational database system sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, and is being piloted in Texas, South Carolina, California, New York and Minnesota. It includes information such as "Worker Characteristics" (abilities, interests and work styles) and "Worker Requirements" (e.g., basic skills, knowledge and education).

HEROES OF EAST CHICAGO, IN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to commend the following residents of Indiana's First Congressional District for their display of bravery, community service, and altruistic heroism in rescuing over one hundred senior citizens from a fire in the Lake County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in East Chicago, Indiana, on June 20, 1998: Foster Battle, Leroy Butts, Dion Cook, Dwayne Cook, Priscilla Cook, Jermaine Cousinard, Betty Gibbs, Johnny Gillis, Darcey Glenn, Mitch Glover, Andrew Gregory, Dwayne Jackson, Anna Rose Jefferson, Jackie Jones, Joey Jones, Johnny Jones, Tyrus Julkes, Bennie Sapp, Louis Sapp, Willie Scott, Alan Simmons, Tim Taylor, Waylance Upshaw, Louis Ward, and Arthur Washington. In recognition of their unselfish efforts, these valiant heroes were honored by the City of East Chicago in a ceremony on July 1st, in Riley Park.

Though five residents of the nursing home were hospitalized, there would have been many more injuries, and even death, if not for the dozens of neighbors, friends, and passers-by who rushed to the scene of the fire. Minutes before the fire trucks and firefighters arrived from the East Chicago Fire Department, the intrepid rescuers were breaking windows with their hands and feet to evacuate the 112 residents from the blazing nursing home. Placing their own lives in danger, these brave humanitarians repeatedly entered the building, evacuated residents, and aided firefighters in caring for the injured until medical help could arrive. If not for their heroic efforts, many more could have been injured, or might have perished, in the fire.

This neighborhood effort shows the importance of community and friendship to the people of Northwest Indiana. Without the teamwork, leadership, and effort shown by these heroes, an unthinkable tragedy might have occurred. Moreover, these dauntless efforts represent the real value, respect, and honor the region shows its senior citizens. This noble rescue shows what a neighborhood can accomplish when working in concert, as well as representing an ideal of every true American community in a crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the brave efforts of these upstanding citizens, as well as the East Chicago Fire Department, for their extraordinarily heroic efforts, last month, which saved the lives of the 112 residents of the Lake County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

COMMENDING KIM BEAL

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, during the July District Work Period, I had the opportunity to meet an extraordinary young girl from Addison, Maine. Kim Beal, who is now 11

years old, is a true American hero. I am pleased to be able to bring her to the attention of the House.

Kim has faced many challenges in her life. Diagnosed at the age of 4, Kim has battled a rare form of cancer. She has received chemotherapy treatments, has faced surgeries, and has developed a weakened heart, a common side effect of some forms of chemotherapy.

But her positive attitude and will to survive have kept her going, and kept her one step ahead of the cancer. Today, there is no sign of the cancer in Kim.

That is battle enough to qualify Kim for the designation of "hero." But that is not all of Kim's story.

During her recovery from cancer, Kim learned to swim. Doctors recommended swimming as a good sport to help Kim regain strength in her chest where her tumor was removed. Over time, she has become a very strong and confident swimmer.

The past April, her swimming skills were put to the test. As she played by the pool at a hotel in Ellsworth, Maine, 4 year old Morgan Beal (who is the daughter of Kim's 4-H leader and is not related to Kim) jumped into the pool while an adult was distracted. Kim heard the splash, and looked over to see that the girl could not swim. Kim swam to the girl, grabbed hold of her, and swam toward the side of the pool. Although the girl was grasping at Kim and making it difficult for her to swim, Kim managed to get her to the side of the pool where others helped to pull her out.

It is no understatement to say that Kim's actions that day were heroic. She put her own safety at risk to help a small child who was drowning. Were it not for Kim's actions, the day could have been tragic.

While in my District, I was pleased to have the opportunity to present Kim Beal with the Role Model of the Year Award at the Maine 4-H Teen Conference. Kim truly is a role model for all her peers, and I'm glad she is getting the recognition she so clearly deserves.

TRIBUTE TO BILL OBAN

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, North Dakotans said goodbye to a great friend and one of the most compassionate leaders the State has ever seen. State Representative Bill Oban passed away last week and I would like to take this opportunity to pay him tribute.

As a leader in the State legislature over the past 14 years, Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of those who needed the most help. His energy seemed endless during tough battles over compensation for injured workers and education for students with special needs. Bill represented the best part of the Democratic Party—he was, as one good friend described him, the party's conscience—giving a voice to so many people without one. During a time when our country is long on political rhetoric and in short supply of people with vision working on behalf of others, Bill stood tall as a true champion.

You see, Bill was less interested in taking credit than he was in making a difference. And with that attitude, what a difference he did